



WEDNESDAY EVENING, FEB. 3, 1909.

FROM an unwilling witness the Senate judiciary committee yesterday gained further important information as to how and why the Tennessee Coal and Iron Company was gobbled up by the United States Steel Corporation in the panic of 1907. Grant B. Shiley, of the firm of Moore & Shiley, and one of the managers of the syndicate that had control of the Tennessee Coal and Iron Company, told the committee that pressure exerted by Wall street banks forced the holders of Tennessee Coal and Iron stock to surrender their, although they were securities for loans aggregating only between \$5,000,000 and \$6,000,000. The pressure, it was shown, was brought to bear especially upon the firm of Moore & Shiley, because that firm, acting as the agent of other members of the syndicate, had used the stocks as security for loans for themselves and their customers. Between \$5,000,000 and \$6,000,000 advanced by Wall street banks was, therefore, the weapon used to compel the holders of Tennessee Coal and Iron stock to surrender a property estimated in the deal to be worth \$30,000,000, but known to be worth a great deal more. Nor were the men who held these stocks pygmies in the game of financial manipulation. They were all strong men, strong in financial resources and strong in business capacity. But they were in a position where they could be squeezed, and, obviously realizing that the pressure would become stronger the longer they resisted, they bowed to the inevitable and surrendered. That the steel corporation gobbled up the Tennessee company because the properties of the latter had been developed to a point where it threatened to become a dangerous competitor of the giant trust, and not for the purpose of averting bank failures in New York, was made entirely plain by Mr. Shiley. There is also considerable reason to suspect that the syndicate that brought Tennessee shares exchanged them for bonds of the steel corporation was engaged in speculation for the benefit of its members and that the steel corporation was not reluctant to absorb a rival which controlled nearly all the coal and ore lands in the South.

SOME time ago Secretary Wright took notice of the fact that army automobiles were almost as common on the streets of Washington as taxicabs. He also made note of the fact that the machines marked "Q. M. D.," which, being written out in full, means "Quartermaster's Department," seemed to be hauling around ladies dressed as for afternoon teas or calls. He made some inquiries, and came to the conclusion that the public was being made to pay for transportation of army officers, their families and friends under pretenses of public business, and he came to the conclusion that automobiles for the army in Washington are an unnecessary luxury. As a consequence all the automobiles other than the one used by the army doctor will be either sold or sent to points where they will be of more use. So hereafter the wives and sisters and the consorts and the aunts of army officers will have to pay their vehicle fare or walk.

UNLESS the apparent present purposes of the republicans of ways and means changes during the process of fixing up their bill, lumber, hides and wood pulp will be made free. On glass and pottery it is expected there will be considerable reductions, with shifts in classifications and changes in the form of duties that will in the end leave the real protection afforded about what it is at present. The latter will, of course, be framed without the aid of the democrats, and when it is finished the minority members will be forced to accept it or reject it, as they may see fit.

THE Supreme Court's decision in the case of the wallpaper corporation in which it is held that a trust cannot collect money owed to it is considered by congressmen as marking a new line in the attack on monopolies.

THE U. S. Supreme Court has decided that a trust cannot collect money owed to it. This puts rest on the same footing with the rest of us.

FROM WASHINGTON.  
[Correspondence of the Alexandria Gazette.]  
Washington, Feb. 3.  
Dispatches were received at the State Department today from Special Commissioner W. I. Buchanan, setting forth the points at issue between the United States and Venezuela in the negotiations for the settlement of the American claims. The points now under question were not made public but the dispatch indicated that the special commissioner is further from signing the protocol than he was a week ago, when his last dispatch was received at the department. The questions are largely technical in nature and did not call for a decision

upon the important issues of the treaty. Secretary Bacon stated that there was nothing of a serious nature in the way of the negotiations and that he hoped that a satisfactory arrangement would be made before many days.

The House committee on public lands today recommended the passage of the Mondell bill providing that phosphate deposits shall be classed as placer land. There has been much confusion in the Idaho, Utah, and Wyoming.

Inspired by the value of the wireless telegraph at sea, Congress is preparing to extend its field of operations. There was a hearing on the subject today before the House committee on merchant marine and fisheries. Congressman Burke was present to urge the passage of his bill providing that all ocean steamers carrying more than 500 miles shall be equipped with wireless telegraph apparatus. The cost of equipping a ship with the wireless, Mr. Burke said, ranged from \$375 to \$1,000.

Ex-Governor Magoon, optimistic as usual, called at the War Department today to pay his respects to the secretary and to prepare for his supplemental report which will cover the affairs of his administration in Cuba from the beginning of the year to the inauguration. Governor Magoon was on his way to the United States for the purpose of making a tour of inspection of the Cuban government in the territories that occurred since his departure.

Shigetaro Yamashita, an engineer in the Nagaura ordnance depot, Japan, has invented a torpedo-steering device which opens up a new field of possibilities in naval warfare, according to a notice that has reached Washington. "With the new equipment a torpedo can be fired around a promontory or point of land intervening between the point of discharge and the point of attack, giving a boomerang effect."

The anti-Japanese situation on the Pacific slope was thoroughly canvassed by President Roosevelt today in conference with Senator Newlands and Nixon of Nevada and with Senator Bryan of Idaho. The latter senator assured the president that there was little likelihood of the legislature of his state taking action similar to that of Nevada, inasmuch as the legislature had passed a law four years ago, during the Russo-Japanese war prohibiting the alien ownership of lands in that state. Senator Borah further informed the president that there was no school question to agitate the people. Senators Newlands and Dixon declined to discuss the purpose of their mission further than to say that it related to the action of the legislature of their state. It is understood that they have put themselves in communication with state officials, but it is not known whether they have laid any reports before the president.

A delegation of Indians, men and women, wrapped in their blankets and wearing moccasins, and headed by Gov. Bigheart, of the Ojaga reservation in Oklahoma, made a personal appeal to President Roosevelt today to prevent legislation claiming on the Osage rolls the names of 37 people who they charge are "white Indians." The names in question have been rejected a number of times by the secretary of the interior. The significance of the movement is that such name on the roll entitles its owner to \$25,000 worth of property or its equivalent in money. All the satisfaction they got was a declaration from President Roosevelt that he was opposed to "white Indians."

Dr. George Tully Vaughan, yesterday, removed the bones from the knee of George A. Kelly, of 1157 Twenty-third street, and substituted the knee of a dead man. Before his death, the relatives of the dead man agreed to the test. The leg was removed before the body had become cold. Such an operation was never performed in this country. The patient is said to be improving rapidly.

Confirmation of the report that E. F. Quailrough, commanding the battleship Georgia, is to be court-martialed, was received from Rear Admiral Sperry, in a cablegram, by Secretary of the Navy Newberry today. Admiral Sperry stated in reply to a query from Secretary Newberry last night, that charges had been made against Captain Quailrough, alleging insubordination and conduct unbecoming an officer and gentleman at a reception to Rear Admiral Walworth, given to the officers by Mr. Gammer, the American minister at Tagier, on Saturday night last. Commander George W. Kline, executive officer of the Georgia, has been placed temporarily in command of the ship and he will bring the Georgia home if Capt. Quailrough is convicted.

A demand for information as to why the U. S. District Court, for the southern district of New York, has not instructed the grand jury to investigate the absorption of the Tennessee Coal and Iron Co. by its monster competitor, the U. S. Steel Corporation, will be made on the floor of the House shortly, by Mr. Gairola, of Tennessee. He told President Roosevelt today that he is earnest in his endeavor to ascertain the facts leading up to this absorption, and although some of his best friends were engaged in the deal, he thought it the part of public policy to have a full investigation. "I will at once prepare a resolution of inquiry demanding to know why the district courts have refused to take cognizance of this proceeding," he declared, as he left for Congress.

The House committee on merchant marine and fisheries will recommend at a meeting on Friday the passage of a bill requiring all ocean steamers carrying over 50 passengers to be equipped with wireless telegraph apparatus. It has not been determined whether the law shall apply to all steamers sailing over 500 miles or over 100 miles.

Col. William F. Tucker, son-in-law of the late John A. Logan, was not ordered to active duty on the completion of his examination by the retiring board at Chicago. He was directed by the War Department today to return to the Army and Navy Hospital at Hot Springs after appearing before the board.

A bill to raise the travelling expenses of United States Marshals from \$2 to \$3 a day was recommended for passage by the House committee on judiciary today.

The gaucost Dixie has been placed in commission at the Philadelphia navy yard to go into the West Indian service. Her first duty will be to assist in bringing sailors from the Atlantic fleet to Washington for the inaugural parade. Commander Harry George is in command.

President Roosevelt has decided to veto the bill providing for the taking of the next census. He has found the provisions relating to the non-competitive examinations for enumerators and

other employees and the one requiring the printing to be done outside the government very objectionable. The president told his callers today that he saw no reason why there should be a report to the spoils system and inasmuch as Congress might pay no attention to a veto message on a veto from a retiring president, he cared nothing.

## Sixtieth Congress.

Washington, Feb. 3.  
SENATE.

The Senate today passed a bill providing that army officers who suffer from failure to receive promotions under the law of 1890 shall on retirement be given their proper grade up to that of colonel.

Senator Warren, in explaining the bill said it only affected twenty officers.

The bill added by the bill will not exceed \$7,500 a year.

Senator Teller, addressed the Senate on the resolution introduced by Senator Bacon after the president refused to furnish information which the attorney general has been directed to furnish.

The resolution relates to "the right of the Senate to call for and inspect any public document, paper etc., on the files of any department of the government."

Mr. Teller said he believed the question had been settled that Congress had full authority to call for any information desired from a department of the president.

All the heads of departments, said Mr. Teller, were required to report to the Senate or House when called upon to do so. None was created to serve the President in an advisory capacity.

At the conclusion of Senator Teller's speech the Senate went into executive session and the nomination of William D. Cram, reappointed collector of customs at Charleston, S. C., was further considered at length. Senator Tillman submitted additional protests against confirmation from commercial bodies and other organizations of Charleston.

## HOUSE.

By the provisions of a bill passed by the House today, United States judges who have served on the bench for 20 years and have reached the age of 70, may resign, and continue to receive during the remainder of their lives, the salary at the time of their retirement.

A bill providing for the forfeiture and reversion to the government of public lands granted to railroads, unless actual construction work has been commenced thereon within five years after the grant, was passed.

Denouncing the appointment of the pure food referee board by the president, as wholly without law, Mr. Lever championed the cause of Dr. H. H. Wiley and denounced the chief executive.

"A closer study of the functions of the referee board," said Mr. Lever, "convince me now that it was created without authority of law and in response to the demands of the food adulterators of the country."

## News of the Day.

Grant R. Shiley's testimony indicates that the steel trust in the Tennessee merger secured a property worth \$500,000,000 for \$30,000,000.

The army appropriation bill, carrying about \$97,000,000, was passed by the House yesterday after the provision for \$500,000 for war balloons had been stricken out.

Capt. James Brown and an expedition left San Francisco, yesterday, for the South Sea islands in search of millions in treasure said to have been buried by Spanish freebooters.

Plans are afoot to consolidate the National City Bank and the Bank of Commerce of New York, with a combined capital and surplus of \$100,000,000 and deposits of about \$500,000,000.

The Oregon Senate yesterday passed by a 2 to 1 vote a bill providing for operations on criminal insane persons and confirmed criminals. The bill declares a confirmed criminal is anyone who has served three or more terms in a penitentiary.

Broughton Brandenburg, who forfeited his bail in New York and failed to appear to answer charges of selling a forged letter of Grover Cleveland, has issued a statement, through his wife, that he will reappear as soon as he secures funds for a defense.

## Virginia News.

John W. Fisher, aged 30, of Strasburg, a Baltimore and Ohio brakeman, who was injured in the railroad yards at Harrisonburg, Sunday, while trying to save a companion, died at Memorial Hospital in Winchester yesterday.

Sylvester E. Purnell, thirty years old, a member of the firm of J. S. Gordy & Bros., lumber dealers of Painter, committed suicide at the home of D. T. Justice, near New Church, Accomac county, yesterday, by blowing out his brains with a revolver.

A test of the soil of the lower valley of Virginia from Clarke county, in Hagerstown, Md., will be made this year in sugar-beet raising, which, if it proves satisfactory, may result in developing that section into a great sugar beet producing and sugar manufacturing center.

Councilman John Outchins has revived the proposition to revolutionize the Richmond government. The general idea of the plan is to reduce the number of members of each branch of the council. The opinion is suggested that if two or three men can control and operate successfully the affairs of a millionaire commercial corporation, the business of a city can likewise be carried on by a small body of men, with less friction and with greater economy.

Representative Carter Glass, of Lynchburg, in whose decision to enter or not to enter the gubernatorial race hangs considerable interest, left Washington last night for Richmond, where a conference will be held today with friends regarding the gubernatorial situation.

"I will return to Washington Wednesday," said Mr. Glass last night, "and will make public my decision that day or one day this week. I cannot at this time discuss the situation."

## STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION.

J. S. Thomas, of Lynchburg, school examiner and inspector for the Third district, was elected last night by the State Board of Education to the office of "superintendent of rural elementary schools."

This is a new office just created by the board, and, in addition to supervising all of the rural schools of the state, Mr. Thomas will set as an assistant to the state superintendent of public instruction. His salary and traveling expenses will be paid by the trustees of the Pabody fund.

Mr. Thomas will take up his new work on February 15. His headquarters will be in Richmond.

The board elected Jackson Davis superintendent of schools of Henrico county, to succeed Mr. Thomas, as school examiner for the Third district, and he will make Lynchburg his headquarters after February 15. Arthur W. Maddox, principal of one of the high schools in Norfolk county, was elected to succeed Mr. Davis as superintendent of the Henrico county schools.

Mr. Thomas has been one of the examiners since the creation of that position, and he has made a fine record for himself.

Dr. Eonion G. Williams, state health commissioner, appeared before the board in regard to the vaccination of children in the public schools of the state. Subsequently the board adopted the following resolution:

"Whereas, smallpox is prevalent in some sections of Virginia, and

"Whereas, the commissioner of health has appeared before the State Board of Education, earnestly urging the necessity of the vaccination of the pupils of the public schools,

"Be it resolved by the State Board of Education, That this matter be brought to the attention of the school officers, and that they be urged not to permit any exceptions from the provisions of the law."

The board did not take up the matter of fixing the date for the election of school superintendents. However, this probably will be decided upon today.

Richmond, Va., Feb. 3.—The State Board of Education today practically decided to reduce the number of school examiners from five to four. The board also received the resignation of Examiner Willis A. Jenkins, who will become head of the Hampton Normal School.

## POSEY ACQUITTED.

After being out three minutes, a jury in the Circuit Court of Prince William county, at 5 o'clock yesterday evening brought in a verdict of not guilty in the case against Thomas Posey, charged with the murder of Edward Fair, on October 8, 1908. The same jury, without leaving the jury box, returned a verdict of not guilty in the case against Mrs. Minnie Posey, indicted as an accessory to the killing.

Edward Fair, who lived in Prince William county until he was 20 years old, moved to Maryland 17 years ago, and there married a Miss Keys. In May, 1908, Fair and his wife moved to Prince William county, near the old Fair homestead. A week before the tragedy, Edward Fair and his wife quarreled, the husband accusing his wife of being unfaithful. This quarrel resulted in Mrs. Fair leaving home, and going with her two children, to the home of Allan Fair, a brother of Edward Fair, one of the men about whom the husband and wife quarreled.

On the afternoon of October 8, Edward Fair went to the home of his brother and endeavored to effect a reconciliation with his wife, but she refused to return with him. On the night of the same day, the enraged husband, in a fit of jealous anger, returned to the home of Allan Fair armed with a shotgun.

Thomas Posey and his wife, the latter a sister of the Fair boys, was at the house at the time, and, fearing trouble, endeavored to persuade Edward Fair to give up the gun. A fight ensued, in which Edward Fair shot and killed his brother Allan, and seriously wounded Thomas Posey. Posey, although wounded, succeeded in getting Edward Fair down. In response to his call his wife brought an axe, with which he killed Edward Fair after striking him in the head several times.

The evidence in the case established the fact that Edward Fair went to the home of his brother for the purpose of provoking trouble.

John Fair, brother of the dead man and of Mrs. Minnie Posey, who is charged with being an accessory, was the most important witness introduced by the prosecution. He stated that the whole trouble grew out of Edward Fair's jealousy of his brother, Allan Fair; that his wife Lucy was very much in love with Allan, and that on the day of the double tragedy Edward was trying to make arrangements to take his two children away and have them properly cared of.

The evidence of the coroner, Dr. J. C. Meredith, supported the theory of the prosecution that it was a shot from a gun held by Allan Fair which wounded Thomas Posey, instead of the theory of the defense that Edward Fair wounded Posey and killed Allan Fair.

Posey and his wife told practically the same story, each detailing the matrimonial difficulties of the dead man and his wife, which finally culminated in Mrs. Fair leaving him and seeking an asylum with Allan Fair, the other dead brother.

Mrs. Posey told of Edward Fair's repeated threats on the fatal day toward his wife, his begging him "not to kill Lucy right in here before us all. If you must kill her, take her outside and kill her."

Mrs. Lucy Fair was the central figure of the trial. She admitted that her husband was very jealous of her.

Posey was able to establish a reputation for good conduct, and this doubtless influenced the jury to adopt his plea of self-defense and his wife's version of the double tragedy and the causes which led up to it.

In the absence of Commonwealth's Attorney Davis, R. A. Hutchins, assisted by H. T. Davis, represented the Commonwealth, and Judge C. E. Nicol, of Alexandria, the defense.

Nasal Catarrh, an inflammation of the delicate membrane lining the air passages, is not cured by any mixture taken into the stomach. Don't waste time on them. Take Ely's Cream Balm through the nostrils, so that the fevered, swollen tissues are reached at once. Never mind how long you have suffered, now often you have been disappointed, we know Ely's Cream Balm is the remedy you should use. All druggists, 50c. Mailed by Ely's Bros., 50 Warren street, New York.

The Market.

Georgetown D. C., Feb. 3.—Wheat 125-140

## Today's Telegraphic News

**Commission on Virginia Claims.**  
Richmond, Va., Feb. 3.—Hearing was begun here yesterday in a case brought by the administrators of the estates of Bernard P. Green and John A. Parker against Morton Mayer, state auditor, for the payment of \$172,586.26, alleged to be due from the Commonwealth for services rendered by the petitioners in the settlement of claims of Virginia against the United States for large loans made to the federal government by the state for the prosecution of the war of 1812. Congress passed an act in 1904 settling all claims and counter claims between Virginia and the United States. The balance in favor of Virginia was for the sum of \$5.50. The sum asked by the administrators of the estates of Green and Parker represents a commission of 10 per cent. on all the claims of Virginia against the United States.

**Raid on Negroes.**  
Pittsburg, Pa., Feb. 3.—One hundred and twenty-six negroes were arraigned in police court this morning, and given various sentences as a consequence of the most spectacular police raid ever made in the city. During the past week eight attempted assaults on young white girls have occurred in the hill district, the negro section, and the raid last night followed such an attack upon Miss O'Neill, aged 20. Negroes were dragged from pool rooms, resorts, and saloons, many of them under the influence of cocaine. White citizens propose to organize vigilance committees and organize an armed patrol for the streets, unless the police show they are able to cope with the negroes.

**Woman Shoots at Thug.**  
Oakland, Cal., Feb. 3.—Standing over the fallen figure of her husband, Detective S. Clair Hodgkins, Mrs. Hodgkins fired a fusillade of shots at J. B. Clifton, a thug whom the officer was attempting to arrest. Clifton, who is an ex-convict, fired on the officer, hitting him twice. Mrs. Hodgkins was with her husband today when he attempted to arrest Clifton. A struggle ensued during which Clifton shot the officer. The woman, drawing her weapon, dared not shoot while the men were clinched, but when the detective fell wounded, she emptied her pistol at Clifton. None of the bullets struck, and Clifton was captured after a hard chase.

**Arrest of Would-be Assassins.**  
Lisbon, via Batavia, Feb. 3.—The police today arrested a former sailor, who, it is charged, was chosen from a group of revolutionists to throw a bomb at King Manuel as the latter was attending Monday's memorial services for his assassinated father and brother. Three accomplices, also arrested, later escaped. The police attribute the plot to the republicans. Only the presence of a tremendous escort of soldiers and the barring of the cathedral to all except the royal party and government officials prevented the execution of the plot.

**Man and Woman Asphyxiated.**  
Philadelphia, Feb. 3.—Locked in each other's arms, a man and woman, of middle age, believed to be Mrs. Margaret N. Lomax, and M. H. Peterson, both of this city, were found unconscious early today in a room of a hotel at Eleventh and Filbert streets. Gas was pouring in a steady stream from an open burner. At the Hahnemann Hospital efforts to resuscitate them were vain. The bodies are now in the morgue. The pair registered at the hotel on Monday as Mr. and Mrs. James Lomax, of Lewistown, Pa.

**Killed by Falling Bell.**  
Cumberland, Md., Feb. 3.—William A. Christ is in a critical condition today with a fractured skull, as the result of the falling of the 400-pound bell from the steeple of Grace Methodist Episcopal Church last evening. The big bell dropped on Christ, as he was entering the church, and almost caused a panic in the congregation. The bell tore its way down through the steeple, and crashed through the floor of the church, planing Christ beneath it.

**Sentenced to Death.**  
Raleigh, N. C., Feb. 3.—Under guard of the Clinton Light Infantry Will Ward, alias Bill Jackson, a young negro, was today sentenced to death for entering the home of Mrs. Molly McLeod, near Clifton, and choking and attempting to assault her. The crime was committed two weeks ago. Since then a mob has twice sought his life and he was removed to the state prison for safe keeping.

**Fire Beyond Control.**  
New York, Feb. 3.—Unable to get water pressure, the fire department has practically lost control of a fire which has already done \$300,000 damage by destroying the Newby and Evans piano factory on east 165th street. The blaze has spread to the piano factory of Decker and Sons, next door to the building, and is rapidly eating its way through the building.

**Dying from Rheumatism.**  
Philadelphia, Feb. 3.—Rev. Dr. Henry Griggs Weston, called the "Grand Old Man of the Baptist Church," and veteran president of the Crozier Theological Seminary, is today sinking rapidly and the doctors in attendance say that the end is only a matter of a day or two. Dr. Weston, who is 89 years of age, is suffering from rheumatism.

**Darkness in Chicago.**  
Chicago, Feb. 3.—Chicago was visited by a strange phenomenon this morning when a pall of black came down over the city, and at 9 a. m. it was as dark as midnight. The extra details of officers were sent out to prevent accidents on the crowded street crossings. The darkness was caused by the settling of smoke and fog over the city.

**The Taft Party.**  
Calebra, Panama, Feb. 3.—President-elect Taft announced today that he will sail for New Orleans next Saturday night on Monday, as first arranged. The earlier departure is made possible by the rapid progress of the investigation into canal conditions. The investigation will be completed by Sunday morning.

**Killed by a Belt.**  
New York, Feb. 3.—Caught in a swiftly moving belt and whirled through the air, Stephen Siderich, a foreman, was killed at the factory of Alar & McGuire, in Madison street, today. Siderich was horribly mutilated. He lived in Bacon Avenue, near Summit, Jersey City.

## Liquor Still Vetoed.

Nashville, Tenn., Feb. 3.—Governor Patterson vetoed the bill prohibiting the manufacture of liquor in Tennessee. G. V. Patterson concluded his veto message with the following reasons: "Because it ruthlessly deprives the State of revenue, without any sort of corresponding benefit."

"Discriminates against our own people in favor of people of other states."

"Takes the property of the citizen without compensation."

"Makes a dangerous precedent."

"Humiliates Tennessee and lowers the place of dignity she has occupied as one of the proudest and most conservative of the union and violates the will of the people, twice expressed at the ballot box."

**New York Stock Market.**  
New York, Feb. 3.—The market was strong all through the first hour. The copper stocks were strong and Rock Island preferred was the strongest of the railroad issues, advancing over a point. There was also a strong tone in the Gold issues.

**TELEGRAPHIC BRIEVITIES.**  
Eleven jurors have so far been secured in the Carmack murder trial at Nashville.

Dressed in deep mourning, Laura Fitzgerald, 15 years old, daughter of a well to do farmer shot and killed herself at Kittanning, Pa., today.

A message from Australia says that Bill Laing defeated Bill Squares for the Australian boxing championship in the 17th round.

Matthew Ryan, millionaire packer, senior member of the firm of Ryan Brothers is dead in Cincinnati, at the age of 78, of heart disease.

The American Tobacco Company today declared the regular quarterly dividend of 2 1/2 per cent, and an extra dividend of five per cent on its common stock, payable March 1.

Three men were killed today in a wreck on the Chicago, Milwaukee and St. Paul Railroad at Powersville, Mo. Two cattle trains collided. A fourth man is said to be fatally injured.

Thomas L. Lewis was re-elected as president of the United Mine Workers of America over John C. L. Walter, of Illinois, by the majority of 15,269, according to the official report of the national tellers in Indianapolis, Ind., today.

**TAFT TO BE MADE A MASON.**  
The grand master of Ohio Masons, Charles S. Hoskinson, Zanesville, has tendered to William Howard Taft the rare and high honor of being made a Mason at sight. Judge Taft has accepted and will return to Cincinnati on Feb. 18, when the grand master will convene a distinguished company of Masons in the Scottish Rite Cathedral, and exercise the high prerogative which belongs only to a grand master of Masons.

This honor is so rarely conferred that there is but a single instance of it on record in the hundred years of history of Masonry in Ohio, when in 1892 Asa A. Bishnell, of Springfield, was made a Mason at sight. Some months ago, in fact, before Judge Taft's nomination for the presidency, he expressed a desire to become a Mason to past grand master William B. M. H. and grand secretary Jacob H. Brownell, who, with past grand master Levi C. Goodale, united in a petition to grand master Hoskinson to honor Judge Taft by making him a Mason at sight.

**FARMERS' INSTITUTE**  
The Farmers' Institute of northern Virginia will be held at Manassas, in connection with the Agricultural High School, Tuesday next February 9, at 10 o'clock. It will be conducted by Prof. Campbell, of the United States Department of Agriculture, assisted by Prof. Burton, the director of the school. The main topic will be "The corn crop," including the preparation of the soil, the breeding and selection of seed corn. In the afternoon the session will be continued and the officers for the ensuing year will be chosen.

**A LEE OF VIRGINIA.**  
Col. Robert E. Lee, jr., has gone back to his home in Virginia. He came here by invitation of the Daughters of the Confederacy to join them in the celebration of the day which has been set apart in our calendar to the memory of his illustrious grandfather, the greatest soldier of modern times. It was a great pleasure and a great honor to have the young man in Charleston even for a few days. He is a splendid specimen of manhood, looking something like his father, W. H. F. Lee, and possesses many of the traits of his lineage—a fine presence, engaging manners, and sincere speech. His address to the Daughters Tuesday night was altogether worthy of the occasion. There was nothing in it of apology, or contrition, or appeal, or regret, but only a matterly review of the political and economic conditions which resulted in the war for southern independence; the valor and endurance of the Confederate soldier, and the matchless devotion of the southern women.

[News and Courier, Charleston, S. C.]

**CAUSE FOR ALARM.**  
Loss of Appetite or Distress After Eating a Symptom That Should Not Be Disregarded.

Appetite is just a natural desire for food. Loss of appetite or stomach distress after eating indicate indigestion or dyspepsia. Overeating is a habit very dangerous to a person's good general health, and insatiable appetite is a sure symptom of diabetes.

It is not what you eat but what you digest and assimilate that does good. Some of the strongest, healthiest and happiest persons are moderate eaters.

There is nothing that will create sickness or cause more trouble than a disordered stomach, and many people daily contract serious maladies simply through disregard or abuse of the stomach.

We urge everyone in this city who is suffering from any stomach derangement, indigestion or dyspepsia, whether acute or chronic, to try Ely's Digestive Tablets with the distinct understanding that we will refund their money without question or formality, if after reasonable use of this medicine, they are not perfectly satisfied with the results. We recommend them to our customers every day, and have yet to hear of anyone who has not been benefited by them. We believe them to be without equal. They are made from the prescription of a physician who devoted all his time to the study and treatment of stomach troubles. They give very prompt relief, neutralize the gastric juices, strengthen the digestive organs, create good digestion and assimilation, naturally regulate the bowels, promote perfect nutrition and create a permanent cure of all unhealthy symptoms.

We urge you to try a 25c. box of Ely's Digestive Tablets, which gives 15 days treatment. At the end of that time, your money will be returned to you if you are not satisfied. Of course, in chronic cases length of treatment varies. For such cases, we have two larger sizes, which sell for 50c. and 80c. W. P. Taylor, 616 King St.

## MINE DISASTER.

Seventeen men dead, five white and twelve colored, and two dangerously injured, is the result of an explosion in slope No. 2 of the coal mines of the Birmingham, Alabama, Coal and Iron Company, at Short Creek, eighteen miles west of Birmingham, shortly before noon yesterday.

The explosion was caused by a "windy shot," one of the miners having placed a defective pole in preparing to shoot down the coal, as is the custom in the district.

Fortunately, the explosion traveled only in one section of the mine, or the catastrophe would have been much greater. One hundred men were at work in the mine at the time of the explosion. So fierce was the explosion that the flames shot out of the mouth of the shaft, killing C. E. Harmon, the outside foreman, who happened to be at the place at the time, and J. P. Salter, the check weighman, who was at work on the lifts.

As soon as the news spread around the camp that an explosion had taken place, there gathered at the mouth of the mine men, women, and children. The distress that was shown was heartrending. The work of rescue was begun as soon as possible.